

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, GR, EEC
SUBJECT: 14TH MEETING OF JOINT GREEK/EEC PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

1. THE GOG LIKES TO PORTRAY ANYTHING CONCERNING ITS ENTRY INTO THE EEC AS THE "NINE" EAGERLY AWAITING A UNITED GREECE'S FULL PARTICIPATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS EVENTUALLY ABLE TO DO SO WITH THE LATEST MEETING OF THE JOINT GREEK/EEC PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HELD IN THESSALONIKI MAY 16-18, BUT IT HAD TO ENDURE A FEW UNPLEASANT INCIDENTS IN THE PROCESS. THE FIRST WAS A DEBATE OVER THE ACTUAL DATE GREECE WILL ENTER THE EEC. MR. NATALI, VP OF THE EEC'S EXECUTIVE COMMISSION, SAID NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL 1981. OTHER EEC REPRESENTATIVES SAID 1980 AND THE GREEK PARTICIPANTS STRONGLY SIDED WITH THEM. IN THE END, THE DATE NOVEMBER 1980, WAS MENTIONED AT A CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE AND THIS HAS BEEN SEIZED ON AS A 1980 ENTRY.

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2. THE DESIRABILITY OF GREECE'S ENTRY WAS THEN VIGOROUSLY QUESTIONED BY AN MP FROM GREECE'S LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTY, THE PAN HELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT. THE MP, WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF PASOK'S TWO REPRESENTATIVES IN GREECE'S DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE UNTIL THE PARTY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GROUP ON JAN 14, WAS ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER. IN THIS CAPACITY HE TOOK THE FLOOR TO ARGUE

AGAINST GREECE'S ENTRY SAYING IT WOULD ROB THE COUNTRY
OF ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND MAKE
IT A POOR SATELLITE OF EUROPE.

3. TO ADD TO THE GOG'S DISCOMFITURE, A DUTCH MEMBER OF
THE EEC DELEGATION THEN SUGGESTED THAT GREECE HOLD A
REFERENDUM ON ENTRY. THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY REJECTED BY THE
GREEK SIDE WHICH MAINTAINED THAT THE NOVEMBER 1977 PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS IN WHICH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS CAMPAIGNED
WITH A PROGRAM INCLUDING EEC ENTRY WAS SUFFICIENT. IN THE
ELECTIONS CARAMANLIS RETAINED HIS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY
WITH ONLY 43 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. ZACHARY

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Message Attributes

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